

The Board Talk

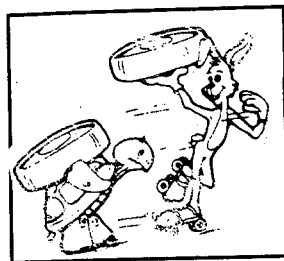
Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber,
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Vol. 13, No. 1

January 1996

1995 -- Memories are Made of This!





Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Something New for '96 Southwest Open 4th of July Event

It seems like each year we are trying something new for our Southwest Open 4th of July tradition. This year, it is basically the same format as last year (see flyer in this issue) with only a couple of small changes and one big one: \$\$\$\$\$!

Last year on Saturday and Sunday, there wasn't much for 2-rated players to participate in as some, but not all, were playing with a pro in the bring partner event. We counted 22 2-rated players, so this year we added a singles event for 2-rated players only. The second small change will be to allow pros to pair up with 1-rated players in the bring partner.

The \$\$\$\$\$ news: a "Southwest Open Best & Luckiest Player" award based on how he or she played through all the events. The system or method I propose to use is subject to change if your feedback shows a serious flaw or something we overlooked in determining how this player should earn the title and the \$1,000.

Starting Wednesday, each player entered in an event will earn 3 points; a 7th or 8th place finish earns 4 points; 5th or 6th, 5 points; 4th, 6 points, 3rd, 7 points; 2nd, 8 points; and 1st, 9 points. The player who accumulates the most points wins the title and the money.

I went back to last year's events, tracked the numbers and found that 21 of the 110 players would have been in the running going into the final event of the tournament. The players' ratings consisted of six 3's, three 2's, six 1's, and six pros and 0's. The winner would have been a 3-rated player winning by one point. Based on past years events, the equity of events for all skill levels, and the Draft Team format, the winner can be anyone from a 4 to a pro. But he or she will have played up to their skill level or above and probably had a little

luck along the way. It should add a little extra excitement to the Southwest Open.

The American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, has added 15 water and electric hook-ups throughout the park and a covered pavilion for the convenience of those who bring their motor homes, 5th wheelers, campers and tents.

Hope everyone had a Happy Holiday and that we all lag our share of 3's and 4's in the coming year.

Ron and Sharon Huddleston, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

We admire your efforts to make this annual event bigger and better each year. To provide feedback on the new opportunity for \$\$\$\$\$, drop a line to Ron and Sharon at 6500 N. Grand Blvd. #123, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

We also salute the American Legion and Manager Don Crall for enhancing their already beautiful facilities with an improved park. We predict that's going to attract a lot of travelling shufflers who may be first-time participants in the Southwest Open.

Glen Asks: "What good are rules if they are not enforced?"

Happy Holidays to everyone. Twelve years have gone by since *The Board Talk* came into the picture. They have helped us to get a lot of things done in the shuffleboard arena, including recognition to the players.

Rules have been established but no one enforces them. I still see fouls going on in the game in major tournaments -- usually the same people and still getting away with it. With all the directors we have across the U.S.A., I seldom ever see a set of rules posted and I notice when something happens (a foul is committed) and it is called to the director's attention, he or she will come up with something off the wall that they have heard was a rule, or something that will benefit them then or at a later time in the tournament. So the rules have not helped at all if they are not enforced.

We finally got a rule on the bring-your-own weights, but you have to let the other player use them also. Now, what kind of a rule is that? I say, get you a set of weights or use the house weights. The people who buy their own should be in control of who uses them.

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— ATTENTION —

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. To receive the next issue, you must renew by the 15th of this month.

_____ Red Check

(Use the form on inside back page to renew.)

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and all the participants of

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extend sincere appreciation to:

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13406 Giles Rd., Omaha, Nebraska 68138; phone 402-896-0468

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111 Heckel St., Belleville, New Jersey 07109; phone 201-759-4474

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● **The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.**

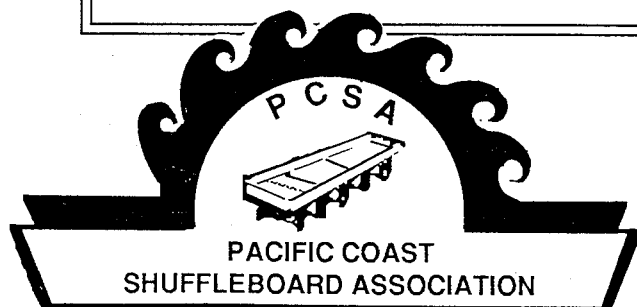
41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, Michigan 48167; phone 810-380-9300

for board wipes

"Without the generous support of these sponsors, we could not provide this opportunity for players from throughout the U.S.A. and Canada to gather at the Aladdin Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas to compete in this latest Extravaganza. Please don't take them for granted! We urge you to take a minute to say THANKS to them."

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

PCSA Representatives: Joe Muniz, Karl Spickelmier and Paul Weber



PACIFIC COAST SHUFFLEBOARD ASSN.

P.O. Box 8143, Bellflower, California 90706

Phone: 310-926-2152

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Florida

3RD ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN, FEB. 16-18, HUDDLES SPORTS CAFE, PEMBROKE PINES

Huddle's Sports Cafe, 7100 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines, will once again host the 3rd Annual Florida Open Shuffleboard Tournament on Feb. 16-18. Featured events will include a bring partner on Saturday, \$50 per team entry, single game, double elimination, and a singles on Sunday, \$50 per player entry, single game, double elimination. Open boards and draw partner jackpots on Friday. Sponsor sales prior to each event or Friday night, 9 p.m. and Saturday night, 9 p.m. Check the enclosed flyer for more details.

Remember, this is the Florida **Open**, which means it's open to all shufflers, unlike the Florida State Championships held over the Thanksgiving weekend. A great place for "snowbirds" to take a break from the chill of winter!

For further information, contact committeeman Marty Allen, 407-471-4053, or host Charlie Fisher, 305-985-8382.

Washington

SWEETHEART MIXED DOUBLES, BLUE GOOSE, PORT ORCHARD, FEB. 17-18

The Blue Goose Tavern, 1931 Bay St., Port Orchard, will host their annual Sweetheart Mixed Doubles Tournament on Feb. 17-18. Entry fee is \$40, with six payouts: 52-24-12-6-3-3. Sponsor sale will start at noon on the 17th.

Last year's winners were Jim and Michelle Foran. Will they retain their title?

Suggested lodging: the Vista Motel, 1090 Bethel Ave., Port Orchard, 360-876-8046 (*Board Talk Editors give this motel a 4-star rating, along with the Blue Goose and the Port Orchard community*); or the Holiday Inn Express, 1121 Bay, Port Orchard, 360-895-2666, where a deluxe complimentary breakfast is included with your room rate.

For further information, contact tournament directors Larry Hudson or Gene Brown at the Blue Goose, 360-895-8171.

More Upcoming Events on Page 19

1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament 35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles MAY 4, 1996



**National Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**

The longest-running annual event in the U.S.A. is proud to host the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament!

**\$1,000 added to tournament pot
\$1,000 donated to Hall of Fame**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 424

202 S. Main St., Bourbon, Indiana

For information, call Fritz Broka, 219-858-2689

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

First Regional Committee Formed

I am very pleased to report that the first official Hall of Fame Committee has been formed. The five committee members are Darlyne Belcher, Buddy Brammer, Dave McManus, and Brenda Wallace, all of Maryland, and Wendy Davis of Delaware. They have also each contributed \$20 (total \$100) toward the Hall of Fame. They will handle the Delaware and Maryland area in representing the Hall of Fame. I am sure members of this committee will be able to make a significant contribution towards the realization of the goals of the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

The next Hall of Fame meeting is scheduled during the PCSA tournament in early February. One of the agenda items slated for this meeting is the criteria, guidelines, expectations, requirements, etc. for the state/regional committees. Until then, there are no official rules, regulations, etc. One of the things readers of *The Board Talk* can do is think about what they would like the committees to accomplish, whatever that may be. Also, things that the committees **should not** do. If there are any other individuals interested in forming a committee in their area, please let me know.

This is a very important request because your input now will help to influence the official criteria for all Hall of Fame committees, since there are not yet any official guidelines. Or, if there are other items you feel need to be discussed, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. It will give you, the player, the opportunity to get things to be the way that you'd like them to be.

Board Talk Reader Response

We have had a response from a reader of *The Board Talk* in regard to the NSHF Board of Directors request for Hall of Fame nomination criteria. The first (and to date, only) person to actually express an opinion regarding the criteria used for selecting candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame has been Darrol Nelson of Oregon:

"The primary criteria for induction to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame should be accomplishments, and the second criteria should be age. The accomplishments should speak for themselves and inductees should be inducted by or around the time of their 60th birthday."

Thanks, Darrol, for taking the time to let us know

how you feel things should be handled. It is our hope that other readers of *The Board Talk* will agree, disagree, or offer other suggestions for the board to consider at our meeting in February.

Nominations for Induction

In that same letter, Darrol also expressed the opinion that there are three people (based upon the criteria he outlined) who should be nominated **now**. First, Billy Mays, who Darrol feels revolutionized the game and was, for many years, the best player playing the game; second, Glen Davidson, who he feels has devoted most of the years of his life to the game, and whose accomplishments to the game as a player and as an ambassador for the game speak for themselves; third, Bill Melton, whose accomplishments, he feels, are unquestioned and can certainly be verified by just reading *The Board Talk*.

In addition, a short while ago, I also received signed petitions (with the required 20 signatures) from the Evergreen Shuffleboard Association nominating the following players: Jim Allis, Dave Arndt, Doug Buhl, Jim Foran, Fred Johns, Darrol Nelson, and Chuck Norris.

While I am certain that there probably isn't a single shuffleboard player alive who would disagree that the three people Darrol mentions, or the seven nominated by the ESA, are worthy candidates for induction to the Hall of Fame, unfortunately, we need more INFORMATION! Currently, for a person to be considered a candidate for induction, there must be a petition with at least 20 signatures on it nominating the player (which doesn't seem to be much of a problem for the nominators). But much more important than the signatures is the information needed regarding that person's contributions to the game. I find this to be the single biggest stumbling block, because it involves much more effort on the part of the shuffleboard community. None of the nominated players, nor we, will be around forever and it is imperative to get as much information about them as we can for the future players of the game.

This may seem like a pain in the neck, or outside the scope of an individual's responsibility, but it is very important to be a contributor in this manner as well as in a financial way. Shuffleboard seems to be a fairly unique sport in that a lot of the game is very secretive, as well as unpublished. It is one of the more important goals of the Hall of Fame to preserve as much information as possible about the inductees. We must establish a permanent record -- for the future!

If it is too time-consuming or difficult for the nominator to provide this information, telephone me! I'll record our conversation about these great players and

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As the Puck Turns....

By George & Donna Wilber

It's been interesting, as we reconstruct the years between 1984 and today for our new column, "Looking Back," to see what people and shuffleboard sites are still around and committed to the sport more than a decade later. A review of 1985, for example, shows a lot more familiar names of shufflers than it does of shuffleboard sites. Many of our newer subscribers have never heard of the Seafarer Tavern, the Spurs Club, the Palms, the Dublin House, the Ace of Clubs and the Log Cabin. Yet, in 1985, they were the "hot spots" for shuffleboard action. Some fell victims of the economy; others changed ownership to those who didn't see the value of the sport, or have a local enthusiast to keep the "fires burning." We all hope those establishments on the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing stay there through 1996 and beyond. Don't take them for granted; take the time to express your appreciation for their support of your sport!

On the flip side of the coin, there are only a handful of 1985 "headliners" who aren't still very much a driving force today in The World of Shuffleboard. That certainly says something for the commitment of players to their chosen sport.

We hope this new column not only brings back some memories, but will serve as a resource for the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors as they do their research for worthy candidates.

Our front-page collage is designed to preserve the memories of 1995. These many faces of our World of Shuffleboard are a reflection of not just the "big" winners, but also those who are involved in keeping the sport alive and well at the local levels, and those who don't often make the headlines, but are vital to the success of tournaments across the country.

Certainly, the No. 1 news story in 1995 was the organization of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. An editorial tip of the hat to the Board of Directors for taking the initiative to make it happen: President Glen Davidson, Oklahoma; Vice President Hal Perry, California; Chief Financial Officer Bob Hunt, California; Secretary Louise Freer, Pennsylvania; Director Larry Creakbaum, Indiana; Director Jim Foran, Washington.

We're predicting that the No. 1 news story of 1996 will be the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament, hosted by the American Legion Post 424 and Fritz Broka in Bourbon, Indiana, on May 4. YOU can have a part in making that first a success with your participation and with donations of prizes or money. Contact Fritz today (219-858-2689) to make your "pledge." She'll keep us posted so we can give you the recognition you deserve for your support of this worthwhile effort.

Another important 1995 achievement, we believe, was the increased number of state championships. Hopefully, that number will increase in 1996 because we'd like to see the day when state champs compete against each other in a national tournament.

Here in Michigan, tournament director John McDermott had to make a tough call that other states may have to make as well. State tournaments are supposed to be restricted to state residents (or, in some cases, areas). So, what do you do about an entry who is known to have had an out-of-state residence and recently moved to your state? This could be a challenge particularly for Florida where many people maintain a residence only during the winter months.

We believe John came up with a good solution for not only residency challenges, but also for ruling that anyone who has participated in another state championship is not eligible to participate in the Michigan championships. This might be something other states should consider; otherwise, some of our travelling shufflers could claim championship status in multiple states. That problem isn't likely to occur if more states set their championship tournaments on the same dates, like Michigan, Indiana and Florida.

If you hold state championships and have rules regarding eligibility, we'd like to hear from you.

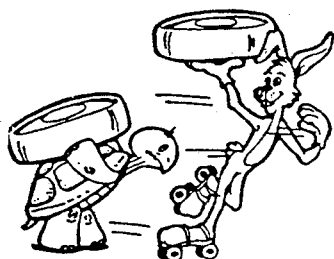
On the back panel of each issue, we list the top six shuffleboard states in the nation. We call your attention to a big change in that listing this month. Texas has replaced Michigan in the number two spot for the first time, and Indiana has once again taken the number 5 spot away from Oklahoma (an ongoing battle). California keeps its number one standing (largely because of subscriber retention) and Washington maintains a strong fourth.

These standings are based on number of subscribers, not number of shuffleboard establishments on our quarterly "Play Your Way" listing. Other states in the Top Ten (but a ways from challenging the top six) are: Maryland, No. 7; Florida and Missouri tied for No. 8; Pennsylvania, No. 9; and Oregon, No. 10.

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Looking Back.....

1985



Editor's Note: To mark our 12 years of publication, we started this new column last month, highlighting the winners of past major tournaments. These lists will include only those that were reported to THE BOARD TALK; consequently, there may have been some major events that are not recorded. This month.....1985.

Seafarer Tavern, Warrenton, Oregon, New Year's 1985

Doubles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon; Glen Davidson, Oklahoma
- 2nd -- Fred Johns and Jim Allis, Washington
- 3rd -- Willard Hutson and Lee Andros, Washington

Spurs Club, Oklahoma City, Feb. 15-18, Washington's Birthday Tournament

Draw Partner:

- 1st -- Sam Summers, Oklahoma; Billy Mays, Texas
- 2nd -- A.Z. Turnbo, California; Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 3rd -- David Williams, Texas; Gil Carter, Nebraska

Doubles:

- 1st -- Sam Summers and Ed Graves, Oklahoma
- 2nd -- Joe Lavin, California; Earl Kelly, Texas
- 3rd -- Glen Davidson, Oklahoma; Billy Mays, Texas
- 4th -- Hal Perry and Karl Spickelmier, California

Palms Steak House & Tavern, Springfield, Oregon, St. Pat's Doubles:

- 1st -- Jim Allis and Jim Foran, Washington
- 2nd -- Darrol Nelson and Sparky, Oregon
- 3rd -- Don Kerr, Washington; Gary Singer, Oregon

Dublin House, Detroit, Michigan, Memorial Weekend

Doubles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan; Buddy Broka, Ohio
- 2nd -- Billy Mays and Earl Kelly, Texas
- 3rd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma; Bill Lally, Penn.
- 4th -- John Tischler and Tom Teacher, Michigan

Singles:

- 1st -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma
- 2nd -- Billy Mays, Texas

Ace of Clubs, Marysville, California, Memorial Weekend Tournament

Doubles:

- 1st -- Don Cox and Leroy Ledford, California
- 2nd -- Jerry Miller and Laggin' Leon, California
- 3rd -- Ron Harrolson, California; Don Mitchell, Oregon

Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Loren Maxwell, California
- 3rd -- Eric Waldman, California

1st Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion, Log Cabin, Howell, Michigan, July 4th weekend

Draw Partner:

- 1st -- Joe Kardos, New Jersey; Jerry Herschman, Michigan
- 2nd -- Larry Creakbaum, Indiana; Ron Spalding, Michigan
- 3rd -- Paul Casula, Missouri; O.B. Brimm, Michigan

Doubles:

- 1st -- Lee McDonald and J.R. Lopez, Michigan
- 2nd -- John McDermott, Michigan; Bobby Voorhis, Indiana
- 3rd -- Don Casula, Delaware; John Lukas, Maryland

Singles:

- 1st -- Bobby Voorhis, Indiana
- 2nd -- Anthony Conch, Pennsylvania
- 3rd -- Lee McDonald, Michigan

Women's Singles:

- 1st -- Cassie Kern, Michigan
- 2nd -- Rita Yank, Pennsylvania

4-Person Team Event:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Gordie and Cheryl Collins, Michigan; Bobby Voorhis, Indiana
- 2nd -- Jim and Rita Yank, Anthony Conch, Ron Ness, Pennsylvania
- 3rd -- John Herrmann, Pennsylvania; Mary Lisle, Jamie Hoffman, Jenine Amon, Michigan

3rd Annual World Championships, Corporate Image, Ft. Worth, Texas, Oct. 11-14

Draw Partners:

- 1st -- David Williams, Texas; Ed Graves, Oklahoma
- 2nd -- Ron Huddleston, Oklahoma; Bill

(continued on Page 8)

NEXT MONTH: Who will be the "headliners" during 1986? Will YOUR name be there?

Looking Back to 1985 (cont. from Page 7)

Wooldridge, Texas

3rd -- Bill Melton and Glen Davidson, Oklahoma

Doubles:

1st -- Karl Spickelmier, California; Glen Davidson, Oklahoma

2nd -- Sam Summers and Ed Graves, Oklahoma

3rd -- Ed White and Bill Wooldridge, Texas

Singles:

1st -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma

2nd -- Glen Davidson, Oklahoma

3rd -- Bob White, Texas

Stagger Inn, Bellflower, California, Thanksgiving Weekend**Doubles:**

1st -- Bill Maxwell and Billy Chiles, California

2nd -- Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl, Oregon

3rd -- Jay Wilson and Lamont Mathuews

Singles:

1st -- Billy Chiles, California

2nd -- Doug Buhl, Oregon

3rd -- Leroy Ledford, California

Other Significant Happenings in 1985:

February -- Missouri Board Talk reporter **Woodie Cockrum** urges publication of a shuffleboard directory listing all the establishments across the U.S.A. where travelling shufflers can find action. Editors struggle about how this can be done economically.

March -- Agonizing over a lone judgement call at a key tournament, Editor George Wilber suggests a panel of five to seven qualified judges making written, rather than oral, calls. Participants at the Dublin House present editors with an answering machine to accommodate calls that come in while they are at their full-time jobs. **Bill Melton** of Oklahoma continues his mission to promote the newsletter and sends in 11 new subscribers.

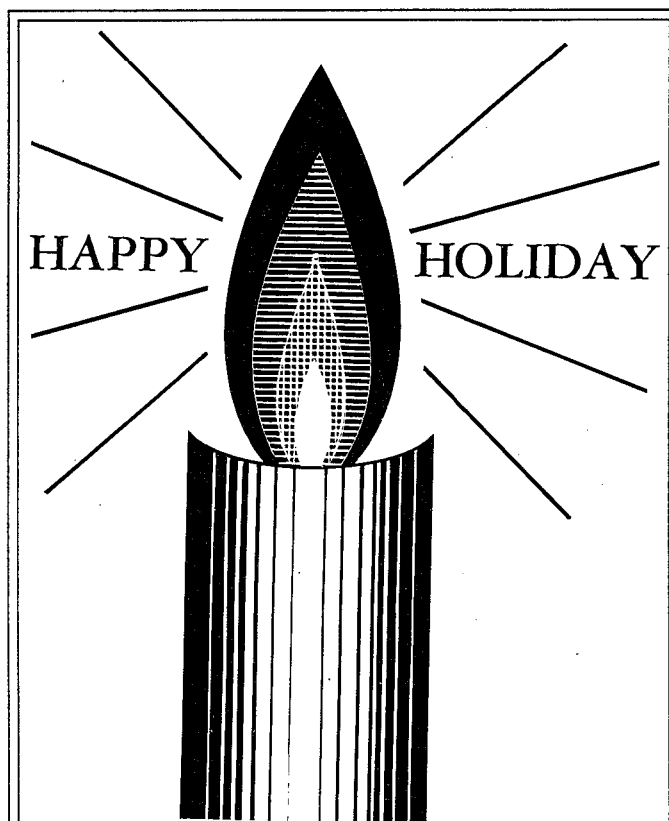
May -- Our very first Pennsylvania subscribers, **Jim and Rita Yank**, become part of our shuffleboard network, an important move for The Board Talk and the sport on the East Coast..

June -- **Roy Lembke** of Oregon promotes the use of a handicap rating system used at the Black Cat's annual Sweathog Tournament. **John McGinnis** of California endorses the idea of a directory of shuffleboard establishments and pledges his support.

July -- With half of the Board Talk staff in the hospital for surgery, and only the **Ryan Brothers** of New York pre-registered for the 1st Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion Tournament, editors consider cancellation, but decide to go for it, marking the first in 11 more successes to follow. **Bill Melton** sends in another packet of 13 more new subscribers.

August -- The Frisco Eddie's Revenge series by **Balboa Ron Schweikert** of Las Vegas, Nevada, is introduced.

November -- Editors tell the limited readers and advertisers: "If you know of someone who can do this better than we can, who is willing and able to take a gamble, tell them The Board Talk is for sale." Nobody responded to that invitation.

NEXT MONTH: 1986 HIGHLIGHTS

*Season's Greetings
to all our shuffleboard friends
we've met down the road.
Come play with us....
Janet & Jimmie Lester Briscoe
P.S.: We love it!*

THE EMERALD ROOM

(at the Econo-Lodge)

4100 Hwy. 287 N.W., Vernon, Texas 76384
Phone: 817-552-6652

Harvey's Place Kicks Off Holiday Season

Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland, hosted a four-event tournament on Dec. 1-3. Dick Gorman reports: "A few new faces showed up to challenge some of the perennial top dogs, and some older faces made the challenge also. Combined, they showed up to say champs can be dethroned -- and they were."

Friday night's draw partner event attracted a host of teams vying for the six payoff spots. First place went to a player who has been absent from the winner's circle for quite a while, Don Casula, Wilmington, Delaware, and his partner, Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Maryland (who leads in the overall point race for the season at Harvey's). Second place went to Jordan, New York's Jane Johnson and Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pennsylvania. Third place was left to Jane's husband, Arlow, and his partner from Perryville, Md., George Chamberlin. Finishing fourth were Keith Leonard, Carpenters Point, Md., and first-time tournament participant, Shannon Ratledge, Conowingo, Md. Fifth place went to tournament director Dick Gorman of Wilmington and his partner, Jim McDaniels, Darlington, Md. Sixth and final money spot was taken by Dave McManus of Street and Dave Shewbridge, Pasadena, Md.

Saturday's bring partner event brought a lot of strong teams and more surprises. Taking first place were Jim McDaniels and Dave Shewbridge with first-time tournament player Eddie Milano and partner Jim Yank Jr., both of Philadelphia in second ("Congratulations to the new breed of younger players," said Dick). Third place was taken by Judy Iseman and Len Dell, another Maryland team. Fourth went to the team of Buddy Brammer, Colora, Md., and Dick Gorman, fifth to owner Harvey Comer (still on crutches) and Butch Kelly, and sixth to Mike Kennedy, now from Avondale, Pa., and Al Pinner, Glen Burnie, Md.

Saturday the party bracket people put together an 11-team draw partner event that was won by Wendy Davis, Wilmington, Del., and Arlow Johnson.

Sunday's event was a second chance draw (after you lose two games, you start over). "We are still having a lot of fun around here with this event," said Dick. "We are still modifying the event and may add a maximum bid sale next time." In the first bracket, winning jackets and two-thirds of the pot were Barbara Brammer, Rising Sun, and Chuck King, Greenwood, Del. Second place money went to hostess Darlyne Belcher and Bob Overbay from nearby Darlington. The second bracket was won by a first-time tournament player, Calvin Grace of Street, teamed up with Arlow Johnson. Second place went to Faye Todd, Newark, Del., and Dick Gorman.

"As promised, Harvey and Darlyne are always interested in improving tournaments and are always

listening to participants for ideas -- and are not afraid to try the proposals if they look possible. Several ideas are being developed for next year's tournaments and will be announced later.

"At the next tournament, we will introduce an idea developed by Chuck King at a tournament he ran at Mickey's. It is called a limited maximum bid calcutta. We have seen it work and it adds a lot of fun. It will be introduced at the next second chance draw event at the March 1-3, 1996 tournament.

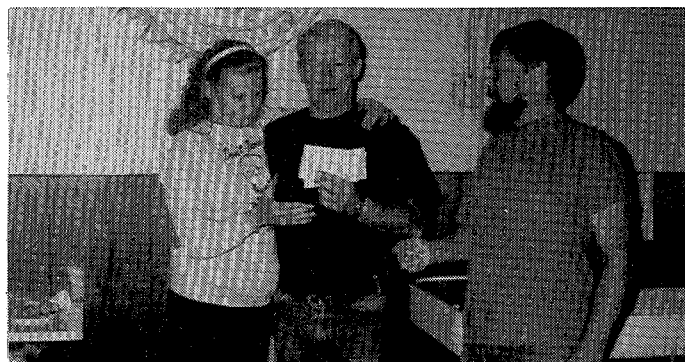
"As usual, good meals were provided by hosts Darlyne and Harvey. Call and reserve your spot: 410-836-8881," said Dick.

Majors/Larson Tops at Sportsman

While there wasn't a big turnout for the draw partner tournament at Sportsman Tavern, Stanwood, Washington, on Oct. 28-29, there was lots of good food and good stories, reports director Murl Kindle.



Taking top honors were Richard Larson and Paul Majors (left) with Dan McKinnon and Murl Kindle in second place.



Director Murl Kindle hands over the third place reward to Marge Brice and Sherm Anderson.

**Share your news with
The World of Shuffleboard
in The Board Talk!**

Martin/Berquist Take Top Honors in 55 & Over Tournament

There were 26 players in the 55 & Over Draw Partner tournament at the Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, Nov. 25-26, vying for a pot of \$1,250.



John Martin of Everett (left) drew Shamrock owner Jerry Berquist to take first place in the 55 & Over event.



Recent Denver transplant Frank Power and local Jet Henry took second place honors. (Editor's Note: Wow! What a dynamite looking "over 55" Jet is!)



Also looking dynamite following triple bypass surgery after suffering a heart attack at the North American Championships in Reno is Bob Jacobsen (left). He and his partner, Jack White, took third place.

"It was taco soup from Bernice this year," reports Ralph Duarte, "and it was delicious. Also, Frank Power, who just moved here from Denver with his lovely wife, Cindy, made some Green Chile, hot and mild. I had never tried it before and I have to say it was sure good. I liked the hot!

"How about running a tournament recipe each month in *The Board Talk*? I'm sure there are shuffleboard men and women who have some good ones."

(Editor's Note: Sounds like a good idea to us, Ralph. Why don't we start with the Green Chili? Have the Powers send it to us. Others who have some special dish to share with shufflers may send their recipes to: *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906.)



Ed Foytack and Fred Linton took the fourth and final money spot. (Editor's Note: No disrespect, fellows, but you look more like "Over 55" qualifiers -- definitely in our league!)

As the Puck Turns (continued from Page 6)

If your state is not in the Top Ten, maybe you should ask why. Are you doing your part to spread the word that there's a communications vehicle devoted exclusively to the sport of shuffleboard? If you don't want to share your newsletter, just give us a call and we'll send you a quantity of "samples."

We were saddened to receive news that E.O. Tenison of Dallas, Texas, passed away on Dec. 12 after spending several months in a nursing home. . Several years ago, his daughter Mona bought him a life-time subscription to *The Board Talk*, which she says he really enjoyed, along with a set of weights with his initials engraved on the bottom. Needless to say, that engraving created some problems -- but it's the thought that counts! Our sincere sympathy to Ed's family.

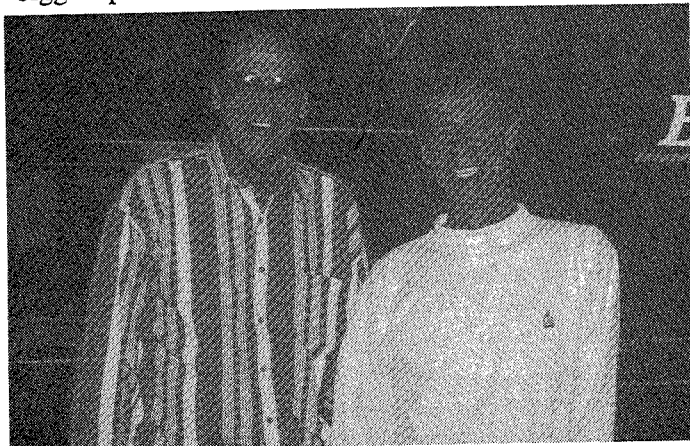
When we showed members of our family how many Christmas cards we received along with renewal checks, they said: "We wonder how many of those *Readers Digest* gets. They must think you're special!" Well, we think you are special, too, and thanks for remembering us during this Holiday Season. We may not have the "27 million copies in 18 languages bought monthly" that *Readers Digest* claims, but we bet they can't claim the special relationship we have with each of you!

We greet the New Year with optimism and we hope you do, too.

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

Gold Nugget's Thanksgiving Classic Draws Big Field of Competitors

The Thanksgiving Classic at the Gold Nugget in Arlington, Texas, was a huge success! After a great Thanksgiving dinner, the draw partner event started with 54 entrants. Bobby Williams of Fort Worth and Ken Strong of Houston finished in first place, taking the biggest portion of the \$10,300 pot.



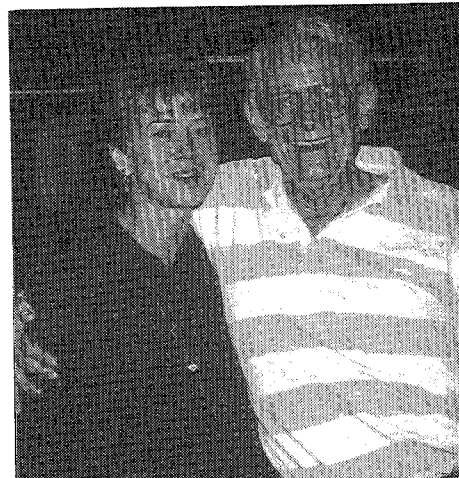
Ken Strong (left) and Bobby Williams were top winners in the draw partner event.

Ken Monacle of Ft. Worth and Bobby Wright of Dallas finished second, with Billy Mays of Dallas and Rod Cameron of Houston in third.

In Friday's bring partner event, there were 44 entries vying for a total purse of \$10,225. Capturing first place were Billy Mays and Fred Boyd, both of Dallas. Taking second place honors were Diana Hagen of Houston and Bill Wooldridge of Ft. Worth. Bob Shaw of Ft. Worth and Steve Burkett of Tulsa, Oklahoma, finished third.



Fred Boyd (left) and Billy Mays congratulate each other for winning the bring partner event.



Taking second in the bring partner tournament were Diana Hagen and Bill Wooldridge.

In the draft team event, capturing the major portion of the \$6,600 purse, was the team led by Johnny Wayne Crawford and consisted of Fred Boyd, Evelyn Harris, Gene McLeod, David Veasey and Toppy McBurnett.

(continued on Page 15)

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If interested, send reply to:

Bill Lally
4322 Howland Street
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Florida -- A "Sleeping Giant"

By Marty Allen

Please. This is not an editorial. This is only my enthusiasm showing after our 1st Annual Florida State Championships over the Thanksgiving weekend.

In truth, we barely knew what we were doing. We made mistakes galore. The turnout wasn't that large -- a total of 74 participants in the four events. But it's a beginning.

What we did have in large amounts was cooperation, dedication, promotion and leadership. Thanks to the three participating shuffleboard establishments: Sam's Place Saloon, Our Place Saloon, and the Bavarian House Bar. Great teamwork!

And thanks to our Florida Table Shuffleboard Association officials, with special thanks to Bill Pelletier, Cass Grubbs, Dave Macko and Jimmy Kumpula. Great dedication, leadership and promotion.

And the most important aspect of any shuffleboard tournament -- the players. They came from Daytona Beach to Homestead to Pembroke Pines and points in between. And here are the 1995 Florida State Champs:

Women's Singles: Colletta Stanley, West Palm Beach, 1st; Wanda Fitzwater, Titusville, 2nd; Carole Boyett, Homestead, 3rd.

Men's Singles: Dave Macko, Titusville, 1st; Ray Boyett, Homestead, 2nd; Billy Maples, Melbourne, 3rd.

Open Doubles: Cass Grubbs and Dave Macko, Titusville, 1st; Colletta Stanley and Marty Allen, West Palm Beach, 2nd; Bill Dewes and Larry Rigina, West Palm Beach, 3rd.

Mixed Doubles: Sissy Bowers and Emmett Griner, Titusville, 1st; Flo Neville and Charley Thompson, Titusville, 2nd; JoAnn Ware, Cocoa, and Jim Kumpula, South Daytona, 3rd.

Photos were not available at deadline. Any later pictures in my possession will be sent to the shuffleboard establishments and they may order copies from me.

(Editors' Note: You have every reason to be enthused about your "first," Marty. Here in Michigan, one of the "oldest" state championships, we had our struggles, too, and we think 74 participants in a first is outstanding. We salute you and your fellow association members, the sponsoring shuffleboard establishments, and the players. With this successful precedent to follow, your state championships will surely get bigger and better. Every tournament is a learning experience! We wish you sincere best wishes for a successful 3rd Annual Florida Open in February. Readers: see enclosed flyer.)

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	1
1	2
2	3
3	4

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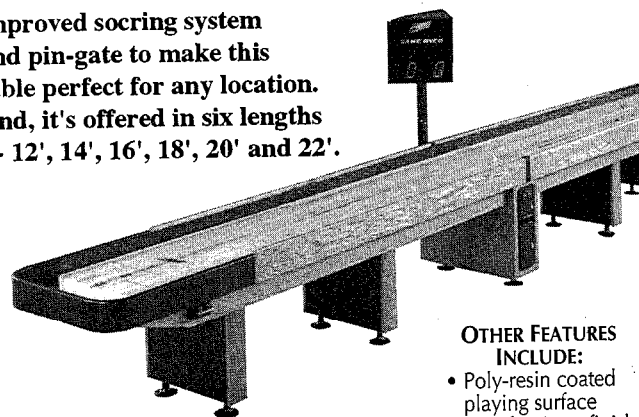
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--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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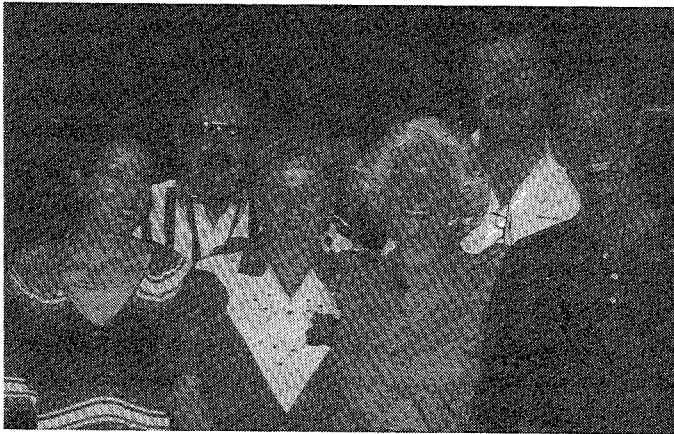
GAMETIME

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Gold Nugget Classic *(cont. from Page 12)*



Tops in the draft team event were: Johnny Wayne Crawford, Toppy McBurnett, David Veasey, Fred Boyd, Evelyn Harris, and Missouri visitor Gene McLeod.



Second place went to the Bobby Williams team: Brent Burgess, Olga Vaughn, Betty Baumgardner, J.D. Sweet and Susie Boren. Bill Melton's team finished third.

"A special thanks to host Tom Johnson for supplying nine new shuffleboards and treating everyone to great meals at his expense all four days of the tournament -- plus roasting a pig to go along with the Thanksgiving turkey," said Bobby Williams. "Also a special thank you to Tammy Denson, Bill Wooldridge, C.W. and Elizabeth."

Massies Hold Lead in Beef's Series of Five

Greg and Tom Massie of Summitville took first place in the second in the "Series of 5" at Beef's in Kendallville, Indiana, on Nov. 18, and retained their lead. Taking second place were Fritz Broka and Larry Summy. Larry Brown and Dennis Svoboda finished third, with Greg Broka and Beef Camp in fourth place.

Larry Huffer won the set of weights from Triple Crown Shuffleboard, courtesy of Floyd and JoAnne Stein.

In the point standings, the Massies lead with 12; Steve Hart and Jerry Knox, 7; Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum, 6; Fritz Broka and Larry Summy, 5; Larry Brown and Dennis Svoboda, 5; Greg Broka and Beef Camp, 5; and Doug Zurmiller and Jerry Sabourin, 3.

At stake in Beef's "Series of 5" is a share of the \$2,000 added money to the entry pot by Playfair, Inc. and Dale Gushman. First-place finishers in each of the series are awarded winners' jackets, courtesy of Beef, plus a set of Triple Crown weights are given away at each event.

The third in the series is scheduled for Jan. 20. For information, call Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965.

ESA Wraps Up Successful 1st Year; Sets Sight on Banner 1996

The Evergreen Shuffleboard Association, formed in early 1995 to serve the players and sponsors in the Pacific Northwest, is closing its books on a successful first year. Secretary Jim Manders reports that 76 members joined the ESA, including all the taverns which host tournaments in the Pacific Northwest. Over 200 players competed in 23 ESA-sanctioned tournaments in 1995.

The ESA's first annual draw partner event is scheduled for Jan. 20-21, hosted by the ANAF (that stands for Army, Navy and Air Force) Unit 68 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. The hosts are adding \$1,000 to the pot.

A reminder to all shufflers who plan to participate in that first: your membership dues for 1996 (\$15) must be paid prior to the event. Send to: Sandee VanWagenen, P.O. Box 580, Quilcene, WA 98376. You don't have to be a resident of the Pacific Northwest to join the ESA and it would be well-worth the \$15 just to participate in the January tournament; those "Crazy Canucks" are great hosts and will show you a great time.

As of early December (with a few tournaments not yet reported), Dan Hitt of Washington holds a strong lead in the point standings, followed by Chuck Norris of Oregon. Others in the Top Ten are: Mike Thorpe, Doug Buhl, Rick Gindt, Jim Foran, Dave Arndt, Loren Lampley, John Martin and Larry Pearson (tied), and Joanie Millar.

(Editor's Note: Jim Manders has announced his resignation as ESA Secretary, effective at the end of the tournament in January, due to family and work responsibilities. We salute Jim for his communications efforts during the birth and growth of the ESA during its first year. Whoever steps in to fill Jim's big shoes may be assured of our continued support. We urge all ESA members to give their full cooperation to the new secretary -- and be sure and extend your appreciation and best wishes to Jim.)

Ice Storm Fails to Dampen Hot Action at Scratch Todd Memorial

For many years, the late Scratch Todd directed a tournament at the Harrington Moose Lodge in downstate Delaware in early December that always attracted players from all over the East Coast. For the past two years, Dick Gorman and Mary Wagner, assisted by Jason "The Mason" Chisenhall, have managed this tournament as a tribute to Scratch's memory. Players from seven and eight hours away still came to play and to honor "The Big Man."

Friday night is always a bring partner "horsecollar" tournament. This year, the straight-shooting players were shut out by the regular horsecollar players from the area. Joyce Harrington and her partner, Dale, both from the Harrington area, were the ultimate winners, with not too much competition from the travelers.

Saturday was the draw partner tournament with 17 teams playing for four payoff spots and divided almost \$2100. Coming out of the loser's bracket to take first place were Larry Diego, Milford, Del., and Johnny Gardner, Harrington. Giving up hard were second place finishers Don Casula of Wilmington and Richard Foraker, Canterbury, Del. Third place was won by Joyce

Pyle, Church Hill, Md., and Len Dell of Baltimore, with fourth and final money spot going to long-time-absent from shuffleboard tournaments: Tom (Barnyard) Bernhard, Milford, Del., and Rick Niblett, Salisbury, Md.

Twenty teams signed up for the bring partner event on Sunday vying for the near \$2500 to be divided among the four top teams. After a long day, first place and a lion's share of the pot went to Johnny Gardner and Chuck King, Greenwood, Del. Coming out of the winner's bracket fighting hard, but ending up second, was the Philadelphia team of brothers Jerry and Ron Herrmann. Third place went to first-time tournament money-winner Ed Hammond, Chester, Pa., and Jim Wolf, Berwyn, Pa., nice finish for a real new team to the tournament. Fourth and final money spot went to Rick Niblett and Jim Sommers, Parsonburg, Md.

"The weekend was great except for the cold weather and the ice that formed over the cars in the parking lot," reports Dick Gorman. "Mary Wagner cooked homemade chili and goulash on Saturday and chicken and dumplings on Sunday which were enjoyed by all participants and their guests. The Moose Lodge, represented by Sue Barner and Bunny Lawton, proved to be most gracious hosts and made things so easy for us."

The Scratch Todd Memorial Tournament is held the



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Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Frisco Eddie and Lil were headed to Seattle, Washington, when the Boeing 727 on which they were flying developed engine problems just before they were to land at the Sea/Tac Airport. Chances of landing safely seemed bleak..., especially since the nose gear hadn't locked into place.)

They were 100 feet above the ground, and all hope was gone! Then, at the last second, Captain Johnson hollered out: "I've got the lights -- and the runway!" There was just barely enough time to "round-out" the controls on the 727 for the landing!

After the main gears hit the runway, they bounced around a bit, but it wasn't too bad a touch-down, considering. He had to "hold off" the nose gear as long as possible, because the warning light still showed that it hadn't locked into place!

Fortunately, they had touched down very near the approach end of the runway. They couldn't reverse the engines because of the loss of torque, and the nose-gear malfunction. Capt. Johnson held it off as long as he could, but the nose of the plane automatically began to lower as they slowed down. The crew held their breath now, anticipating the crash when the nose of the aircraft hit the runway.

By a miracle -- it didn't happen! The nose gear WAS "down-and-locked." The warning light had been giving a false indication! They were eating up the runway now. Capt. Johnson very carefully applied the brakes at first, then put on enough pressure to start slowing their roll-out. There was over 10,000 feet of runway, but it looked like it was going to be close! He REALLY got on the brakes then, as they flashed by the huge Boeing factory on their left. The end of the runway was approaching fast!

The emergency vehicles chased the plane at top speed. Besides the possibility of over-shooting was the fire danger on the left wing -- and the fuel that still remained inside the wing.

The flight attendants were giving instructions now: "As soon as we come to a full stop, the emergency doors will be opened and you are to exit them as instructed. Don't panic! We're going to be O.K. Wait your turn to exit, and use the emergency ramps. The main thing is to keep calm, and don't lose control!"

The aircraft finally came to a full stop a few feet from the end. Lil and Eddie were located one seat from the center emergency exit, and they were ready to get out! Lil went first and met Eddie on the ground after they slid down the air-filled ramp. They had been told to get as far away from the plane as they could -- and that's exactly what they did!

They ran for some distance before they stopped. When they looked back, they saw that the left wing of the plane was still smoldering, but the crash rescue fire trucks were shooting foam all over the engine and the wing. There were rescue vehicles everywhere and it appeared that it was all going to be under control.

They both sat down on the grass then. A sweet feeling of relief began to set in over them. Eddie lowered his head and gave thanks. They had made it! After a while, Lil said to Eddie: "This day will be permanently imprinted on my mind. I'll never forget it. I'll bet you won't either, Champ!" Eddie said: "That's for sure, Lil, but we're alive -- and that's the main thing. Next time, I think I'll take the train!"

They were picked up by a shuttle bus then and were driven over to the main terminal. The bus was alive with conversation about the emergency landing and how close they had all come to disaster. Lil and Eddie were quiet now -- just taking it all in.

There were medical personnel waiting when the shuttle buses dropped them off at the terminal. Everyone seemed to be in pretty good shape, except for a few old ladies who thought they were having heart attacks. After a while, Capt. Johnson and the crew came in. The whole crowd began to clap and cheer for them. They began shaking hands and giving hugs. It was a very emotional experience. Lil even had a hint of a tear in the corner of her eye!

After they had been medically cleared and had given some more information, they were cleared to leave. What a relief it was! When they got to the car rental area, Lil arranged for their transportation. After that was taken care of, she said she had to make a quick phone call to a friend she had in the local area. After a short, but lively conversation, she said: "O.K., my man, we're all fixed up for the night. Let's go!"

On the drive over, Eddie questioned Lil about where they were headed. She told him: "We're gonna spend the night at the home of a friend of mine. He's an old-time shuffler and we go way back. You'll enjoy meeting him, and we need to have a few (ha!) drinks to get over all this excitement. He always keeps a well-stocked bar and plenty of stories to tell, too. It'll be just what we need to settle down. They call my friend Tacoma Tim."

Eddie looked at Lil then, and he wondered about just how many more weird things could possibly happen on this trip. If he only knew...if he had any idea at all...

Don't miss next month's episode when Eddie meets "Tacoma Tim."

Upcoming Events *(continued from Page 4)***Indiana****14TH ANNUAL WINTER DOUBLES, AMERICAN LEGION 424, BOURBON, JAN. 6**

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon will host its 14th Annual Winter Doubles on Jan. 6. Entry fee for the single game, double elimination event will be \$40 per team. There will be \$20 draw partners on Friday at 6 p.m. Sponsor sale for the main event will start at 11 a.m. on Saturday with play immediately following.

For tournament information and/or lodging recommendations, call Fritz Broka, 219-858-2689.

Also, mark your calendars for the 1st Annual Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament now! See ad on Page 4. As a warm-up to that big event, participate in the Doubles Tournament at the Mississinewa Tavern in Eaton, Indiana, on April 13 (flyer in future issue) and/or the open singles at Beef's, Kendallville, Indiana, on April 27.

Oklahoma**OKLAHOMA TEXAS PANHANDLE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, JAN. 19-21**

The American Legion Post 73 in Del City will host the Oklahoma State Championships on Jan. 19-21, which will be open this year to shufflers from the Texas Panhandle. Action will start on Friday with a \$25 open draw, with finals on Saturday, along with round robins.

The singles championship will start at 7 p.m. on Saturday, with entries based on rankings: pros, \$100; 0's, \$75; 1's, \$50; and 2's-4's, \$25. Single game, double elimination.

Last year's champions were Billy Melton, 1st; John Breathwit, 2nd; and Rick Jones, 3rd.

See flyer in this issue and if you have questions, contact Ron Huddleston at 405-843-1615.

On that same flyer, and in Notebook on Page 2, you'll find preliminary information on the Southwest Open 4th of July event, which will also be held at the American Legion in Del City, Oklahoma. Mark your calendars now for this big event.

More Upcoming Events
on Page 23

Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

I don't think any director or bracket man should be able to call the shots on what board he or his associates will play on. I think the brackets should be drawn out of a hat at the start and all the brackets should be done all the way through. We have all seen how this affects everyone in a tournament. The bracket man is a very powerful man when he can call all his own shots. Something or some rule has to get into the act to stop all the illegal activities. I have seen this happen at major tournaments. As far as I'm concerned, and a lot of other people from their area, if there's a bad board or a worn-out board there, take it out of the game. This happened and the director would not take the board out. A few people lost on that board and then the director played a game on it and then he took it out. It's good enough for everyone else, but not the director. This is what's happening at a lot of places.

If the players don't speak up, it will be happening from now on. I think the players themselves should get their own committee together, not a hand-picked few that the directors pick themselves, but those dedicated players to watch over the tourney and call all fouls out when they happen.

I also think these three people should check all boards to see that they are uniform; if not, take them out before the tournament starts.

Another rule we need is a players' committee should be elected at each tourney from various parts of the U.S. to stop favoritism. All bracketing from beginning to end should be done at the beginning of each event. The committee would be the players' "watch dogs" for better tournaments. If the players are not involved in tournament activities, except to play, we are losing ground.

Next tournament: (1) a set of rules on the wall; (2) check all the boards; (3) be there at bracket time; watch for fouls that are not reported. Do all these things and the tournaments will gradually get better.

I'm looking forward to the 1st Hall of Fame tournament in Bourbon, Indiana, where all the bracketing is done in advance, a set of rules on the wall, all boards are kept in great shape, and a referee will be on hand to keep the rules enforced.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

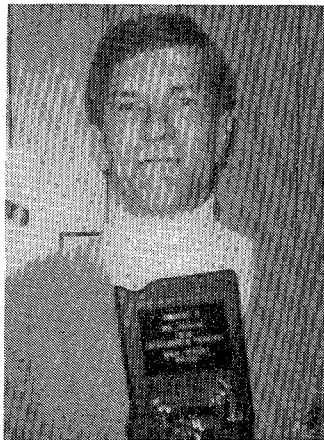
You certainly haven't minced any words, Glen, and we look forward to responses to your Notebook contribution. We don't doubt that the "violations" you have cited do exist, but we'd also like to put in a good word for the many volunteer directors and/or bracketeers across the country who contribute many hours away from their families and, in
(continued on Page 28)

Another Successful State Tournament for Hoosier Shufflers

Chances R in Muncie hosted the 7th Annual Indiana State Championships over the Thanksgiving weekend.

In Friday's open singles, Steve Hart of Anderson finished tops in the 39-player field of contenders for a share of the \$5,310 pot. Larry Vance of Muncie took second place honors, with Willis Mathews of Noblesville in third. Other finishers were Ricky Royal, Muncie, fourth; Jim Long, Osceola, fifth; and Buddy Broka of Bourbon in sixth place.

Steve Hart, Indiana's 1995 singles champion, proudly displays his first place trophy. Steve also served as tournament director.

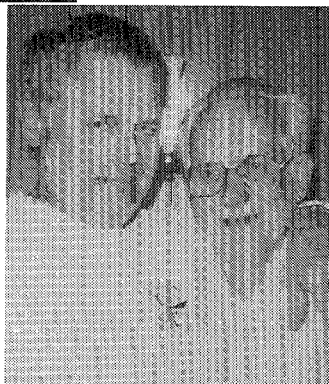


There were 25 teams in Saturday's open doubles, vying for a total purse of \$4,010. Hart, teamed with another Steve, Blue of Columbia City, to put yet another star in his crown. Runners-up for the title were Larry Creakbaum of Indianapolis and Jim Long, Osceola. Larry Vance and host Bob Schounce of Muncie finished third, with J.D. Fender, Muncie, and Jim Rubick, Eaton, in fourth place.



1995 Indiana doubles champions are Steve Hart and Steve Blue.

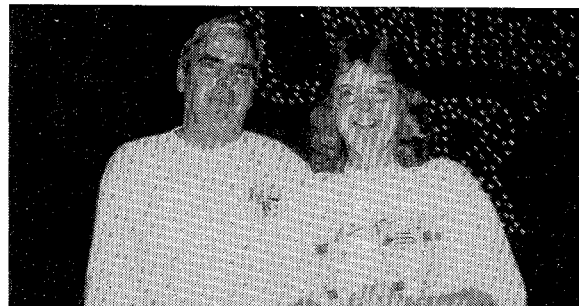
Just wait until next year, say the tough team of Larry Creakbaum (he's the one growling) and Jim Long.



There were 14 teams in the mixed doubles on Sunday with a purse of \$1,810. Steve Blue picked up another championship trophy with his partner, Sheryl Cockrell of Muncie. Willis Mathews of Noblesville and Robin Reed of Fairmount took second place. Bob and Marsha Brown of Portland finished third, with Steve Hart and Ady Snyder in fourth place.



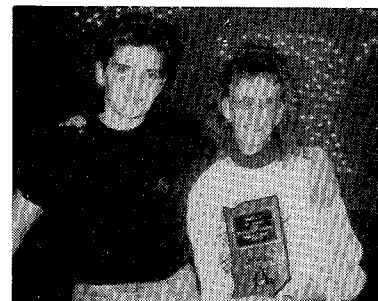
1995 Mixed Doubles Champions are Steve Blue and Sheryl Cockrell.



Willis Mathews and Robin Reed took second place.

There were 14 players in Sunday's women's singles and a total purse of \$955. Capturing the championship trophy was Mary Brown of Ft. Wayne, with Ady Snyder in second place. Sandy Burke of Muncie finished third, with Robin Reed in fourth place.

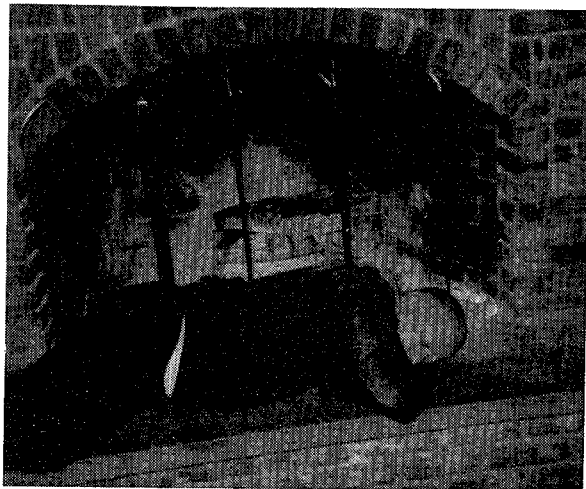
Women's champion Mary Brown (right), and second place finisher Ady Snyder.



"Thanks to those who helped make this tournament possible: Bob and Marsha Brown for handling the money,

Larry Creakbaum for the bracket boards, and our gracious hosts, Bob and Karen Shounce, who once again make this tournament better and better each year," said Steve Hart.

The 1996 Indiana State Championships will be held at Chances R, that is if Bob recovers by then....



Both the fireplace and Chances R host Bob Shounce were all burned out by the end of the tournament.

Creakbaum/Long Winners at Kimmel Inn

Larry Creakbaum and Jim Long topped the field of 12 teams entered in the doubles tournament at Kimmel Inn, Kimmel, Indiana, on December 1. Steve Hart and Larry Huffer took second place, with Steve Blue and Larry Brown in third.

Fibber McGee's Tops in Dallas

The U.S.S.A./Billy Mays Fun Time Shuffleboard League just concluded its third season with 18 participating teams from Northeast Dallas.

Following a hotly-contested city playoff, the top four teams were: Fibber McGee's Saloon A, 1st; Red Onion B, 2nd; Graffiti's, 3rd; and Lone Star Cafe, 4th.

Each team was presented with a travelling trophy which will be held until the playoffs next season. Marcy and Lana from Red Onion Club each received an "Improved Player" trophy. "Most Sportsmanship Club" was awarded to Babe's Club, and "Best Sportsman" was presented to Will Cave of Southern Comfort.

"The U.S.S.A./Billy Mays Fun Time League thanks all of its sponsor clubs and team players for promoting shuffleboard in the Dallas area," said Secretary Joy Huitt.

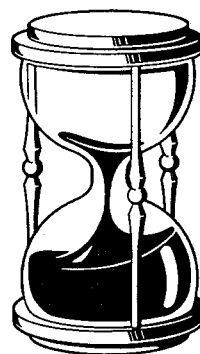
The league was founded and is administered by shuffleboard legend Billy Mays.

The 1996 season began on Dec. 12, 1995, with 16 teams participating.

Did You Miss the Deadline for the PCSA Extravaganza VIII?

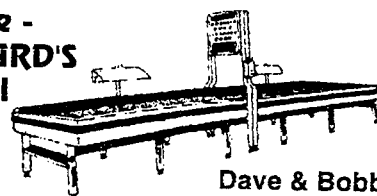
The deadline for both entries and room reservations (you must be a guest of the Aladdin Hotel, registered through the PCSA, in order to participate) for the PCSA Extravaganza VIII in Las Vegas was Dec. 29. Did you miss that deadline? If so, you'd better call the PCSA, 310-926-2152, to see if the tournament and the hotel can accommodate you. This events will be one of the highlights of the '96 shuffleboard year!

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1996 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

JANUARY 1996

Dec. 31-Jan. 2

New Year's Extravaganza
Winnipeg Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Jan. 6

Bourbon Winter Doubles
American Legion 424
Bourbon, Indiana

Jan. 12-14

2nd Annual Round Robin Singles
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Jan. 13

Bring Partner Tournament
Riverside Hotel
Earlville, New York

Jan. 13

2nd Annual Open Doubles
Chances R
Muncie, Indiana

Jan. 19-21

Oklahoma Texas Panhandle
Open Championship
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

Jan. 20-21

1st Annual ESA Draw Partners
A.N.A.F. 68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Jan. 20

3rd in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

Jan. 26-27

Super Bowl Weekend Singles
Libby's Place
St. Louis, Missouri

FEBRUARY

Jan. 30-Feb. 4

PCSA Extravaganza VIII
Aladdin Hotel/Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 16-18

3rd Annual Florida Open
Huddle's Sports Cafe
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Feb. 17

4th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

Feb. 17-18

Sweethearts Tournament
Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 24

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

MARCH

March 2-4

Three-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 15-17

2nd Annual St. Pat's Day Tourney
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

March 23

5th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

APRIL

April 5-7

3-Event Tournament
Avon Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

April 12-14

Three-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

April 13

Doubles Tournament
Mississinewa Tavern
Eaton, Indiana

April 27

Open Singles
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

MAY

May 4

1st Hall of Fame Doubles
American Legion 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 11

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

JULY

July 2-7

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

AUGUST

Aug. 30-Sept. 1

6th Annual Crazy Canucks
Labor Day Tournament
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THE BOARD TALK

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Upcoming Events *(continued from Page 19)*

Missouri

Super Bowl Weekend Singles at Libby's Place, St. Louis

Libby's Place (formerly George's), 5000 Alaska, St. Louis, will host a singles tournament over the Super Bowl weekend, Jan. 26-27, and if needed on the 28th. Entry fee is \$20 per player with sponsor sale starting at 6 p.m. on the 26th.

For more information, call Libby's Place, 314-481-5003.

(Editor's Note: For a report on recent action at this new addition to the shuffleboard network, see Page 25)

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

(Editor's Note: For the past several months, NSHF Chairman Glen Davidson has been writing profiles of his Board of Directors. Being the modest individual he is, he left the job of profiling him to his fellow board members. Vice President Hal Perry "remembers when.....")

"One of the Greats"

The first time I saw Glen Davidson was in the early '60s at Dot's Club in Sacramento, California. He had traveled the 70 miles from Richmond to play Bill Floyd, one of the best "stay hammer" players in the state. When it was over, Glen and Bill Van (his doubles partner) had taken most of Mr. Floyd's money and I got my first glance at what a great player looked like.

For the next 25 years, I played many sessions and tournaments against Glen. One thing never changed. To beat him would require your very best and sometimes that wasn't enough. Twenty, 30, even 40 hours on the board was not uncommon for a session. Looking back now, I wonder if we might have been a little crazy.

For a few years in the '70s, Glen and Rod Cameron traveled the country playing anyone who would have the guts to stand up to them. Not many came out on top of this team. Glen's lag and overall game, with Rod's great ability to control the hammer, made (in my mind) the best doubles team in the country. I once watched Glen lag three after three for about 12 straight hours in Visalia, California. It is still the best lagging I have ever seen over such a long period of time.

For some reason, I didn't play with Glen very often. We were almost always on opposite sides. But there was

one memorable weekend when we did team up. It was at the Dixie and we ran off 22 games in a row, and this against the best Los Angeles had to offer. With so many top players, that was no easy task.

As a member of the Hall of Fame Board, I think we have done what we set out to do -- give some great players of the past some national exposure. As with these other great players, it has come time to recognize a man who has done such a good job as a writer and chairperson of the Hall of Fame. But we also must remember that Glen Davidson is one hell of a shuffleboard player. He has earned the respect and admiration of many. I'm happy to serve on the board with a future Hall of Famer.

I tip my hat to a life....long pain in my wallet.

Hal Perry, Sacramento, California

Vice President, National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Thanks for this great tribute to Glen, Hal. We know he'll be thrilled!

**Support the National
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!**

ADDITIONS TO "PLAY YOUR WAY" LISTING.....

Shuffleboard establishments which have joined (or rejoined) the network this month (after publication of the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing in the November issue) include:

Florida: Brass Balls Inn, 2664 Pineapple Ave., Melbourne 32935; phone 407-253-9328

Whale's Inn, 2217 Garden St., Titusville 32796

Kansas: Wichita Billiards, 700 W. Douglas, Wichita 67203; phone 316-264-5348

Missouri: Libby's Place, 5000 Alaska, St. Louis 63111

Oregon: Homestead Lounge, 119 E. Main, Rogue River 97537; phone 541-582-1106

Texas: Southern Comfort, 1144 N. Plano Rd. #123, Richardson 75081; phone 214-234-1434

Correction California: To the Pubs in Glendale, add the phone number, 818-242-8455

Please make these additions to your current listing, stop in and welcome them to the shuffleboard network.

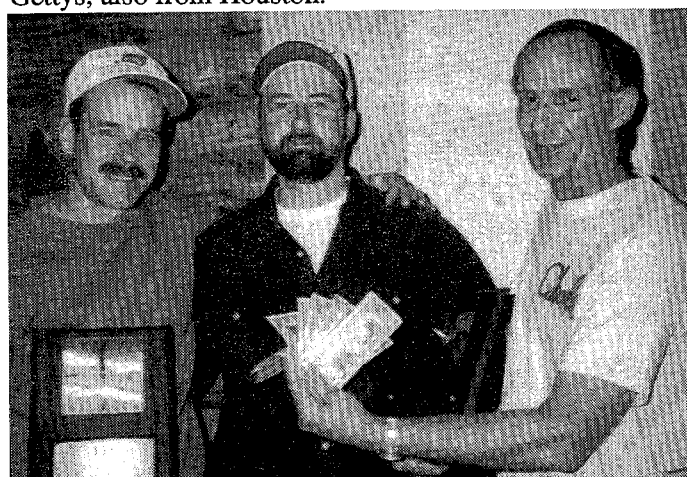
The next quarterly listing will be published in the February 1996 issue. If your favorite shuffleboard site is not a member of the network, sign them up before January 15. Their \$15 subscription fee entitles them to a free quarterly listing on the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." map.

Muehlauser/Dunn Tops at Houston, Missouri, Eagles 1st Thanksgiving Event

The 1st Annual Thanksgiving Tournament held at the Eagles Lodge Aerie 3911 in Houston, Missouri, Texas County, was one HUGE success! It all sounds huge, doesn't it? Houston and Texas County. Well, it's a small town in Missouri but the shuffleboard that goes on here is anything but small. There is some tough competition here in the 2's, 3's and 4's.

Top shuffleboard players from all over the state showed up for this one -- 18 teams in all, with five from St. Louis, three from Springfield, one from Cuba, one from Branson, one from Steelville, and seven local teams from Houston.

First place went to the team of Chuck Muehlhauser and Jim Dunn from St. Louis, who played tough all the way through, as did second place winners, Dean Pinkston and Moe Miller from Houston. Don't ever underestimate the women who shot some mean games to take third place, Julie Hartman and Carolyn Johnston from Houston. Coming in fourth were John Stenger and Dale Gettys, also from Houston.



First time tournament director Charley Riley (right) presents the first-place cash and trophy to Chuck Muehlhauser (left) and Jim Dunn. Charley says if he can find boards, he plans to have more events and make this an annual event.



Taking second place honors were Dean Pinkston (left) and Moe Miller.



Celebrating their third place finish were Julie Hartman (left) and Carolynn Johnston.



Looking happy with their fourth place finish were John Stenger (left) and Dale Gettys.

"The staff, trustees, officers, and all members of the Aerie 3911 did a wonderful job of making some of Missouri's top shufflers feel welcome," said Carolyn Johnston and Charley Riley. "They prepared food from deer meat to filet mignon, while the ladies' auxiliary brought in tasty dishes to top off the meals.

"We can't forget to mention all the wonderful sponsors of this event: Sonny Boys in Cuba, C & R Package in Houston, the East Inn Tavern in Springfield, the Longbranch in Springfield, the Office in Houston and, of course, the West Plains Beverage Co. in West Plains, Missouri.

"With the help of the Wilbers (The Board Talk) in helping hook Dan Kelly and Woodie Cockrum together, they were able to tie the Springfield, Houston and St. Louis players together. Missouri has made a statement in The World of Shuffleboard. In the last half of 1995, we had four major events, starting with Sonny Boys in Cuba, Jimmy Johnson's Longbranch in Springfield, Jim Dunn's tournament at Ulena's Bar in St. Louis, and this

one at the Eagle Lodge here in Houston. All of these places are planning a return in 1996," they said.

All the people involved in this first wish a Happy New Year to all members of The World of Shuffleboard.

(Editor's Note: It takes the desire of people like Dan Kelly and Woodie Cockrum to expand the World of Shuffleboard and rally around the forces of players, sponsors and volunteers like you folks to make things happen. We salute you all and look forward to highlighting your action during 1996 and beyond!)

McLeod/Dowell Take First at Libby's Place, St. Louis, Missouri

Shuffleboard players from around the city of St. Louis, Missouri, showed up at Libby's Place (formerly George's) on Alaska St., to help new owner Don Libby make his first tournament a success.

For two days, teams battled back and forth, with Gene McLeod from Licking, Missouri, and Terry Dowell from Indiana, finally emerging as champions.

Taking second place honors were tournament director Dennis Bullock and Steve LaRose. Finishing third were Mike Simpson and Dee (Ross) Coleman, followed by Pat and Dee Minks.

All the players would like to welcome Don Libby to The World of Shuffleboard and are looking forward to the singles tournament on Jan. 26-27 (see details in Upcoming Events).

Participants report that the food served on Saturday was a "four" all the way, as was the entertainment provided by the "I love you man girls."

Another Successful Thanksgiving Tourney at The Dixie Belle

The Dixie Belle, Downey, California, hosted its 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Tournament on Nov. 23-26, featuring an open doubles and an ABC Draw.

First place in the doubles, with a total purse of \$4,375, went to Larry Pearson and Billy Chiles with team mascot, "Killer." Bill Maxwell and Ted Z, owner of ET's in Temicula, took second place honors, with Rich (Bubba) Warren and Paul Elliot in third place. Larry and Billy came up from the loser's bracket with both of their final matches going all three games, each hard-won.

In the ABC Draw, with a total purse of \$4,010, first place went to Rich (Bubba) Warren, Jerry Davis and Billy Duncan. Second place went to Billy Chiles, John McGinnis and Pearl, with the team of John (Squirrel) Fisher, Tony Sousa and Bob Thompson in third. Finishing fourth, with the team name of "Kimble and Bits," were Jay Kimble, Gary Johns and "Little Susie" Jones.



Winners of the doubles at The Dixie Belle's Thanksgiving tourney were (left holding mascot "Killer") Larry Pearson and Billy Chiles.



Winners of the ABC Draw were (left to right) Bubba Warren, Billy Duncan, and Jerry Davis.

Hosts Wes and Eileen Eades congratulate all the winners and thank all the players and spectators who participated, and extend a special thanks to The Shuffleboard Federation for again supplying the wax for the tournament.

For more background on this tourney and other action at this location, read Dixie Debbie's column on Page 28.

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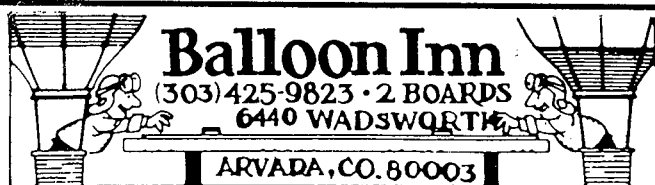
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Michigan Holds 10th Annual State Championships

Nearly 60 players packed the house for the longest-running state championships in the country, held annually on Thanksgiving weekend. This year, Wetlands Bar & Grill in Royal Oak hosted the three-day, five-event tournament.

The action kicked off Friday with a 20-team mixed doubles, in which Frank and Sandy Blade successfully defended their title by defeating the team of Penny Cottrell and Mike Papa, who edged out Mike Tobin and Debbie Turk.

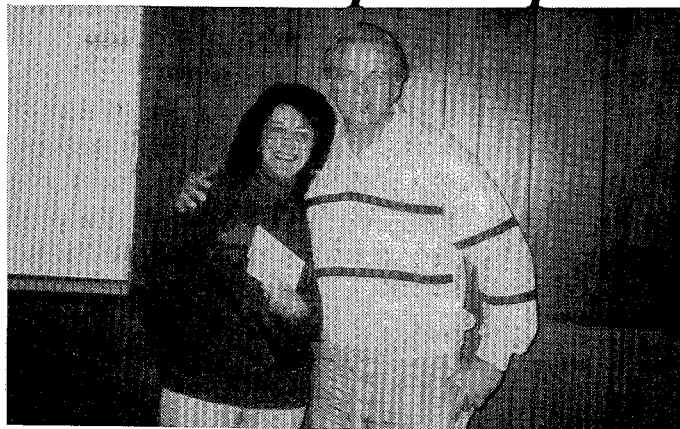
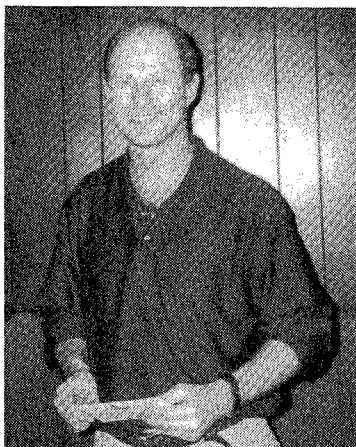


Defending mixed doubles champions Sandy and Frank Blade repeated their winning ways to take the 1995 crown.

On Saturday, three singles events were held to determine the state champions in open, ladies', and Division II competition. After missing the 1994 tournament, John McDermott returned to capture his sixth title in seven tries in the open singles, avenging an earlier loss to Mike Papa by coming out of the loser's bracket to beat him in the finals. Third place went to Bill Meyer, who even though he has played very little in the last year, always seems to play well in this tournament.

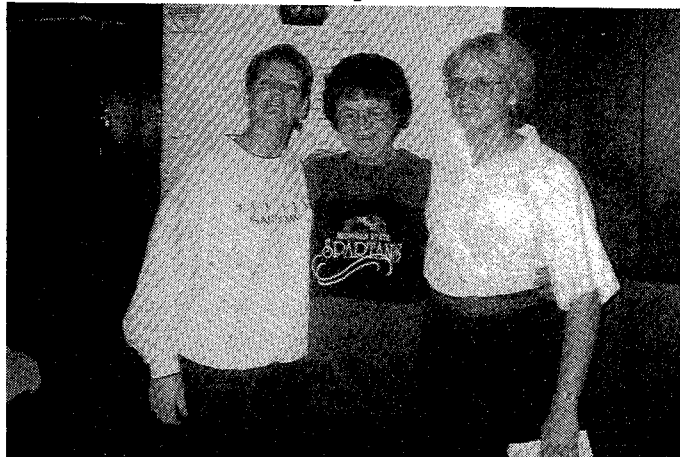


John McDermott (left) came out of the loser's bracket to beat Wetlands host Mike Papa in the finals of the open singles. This was John's sixth Michigan Championship singles title in seven tries.



Collecting the money envelope for her third place finisher husband Bill was Myra Meyer.

Marie Sweeney was the lady to beat in the ladies' singles. Unhappy with her performance on "Ladies' Weekend" in October, she vowed to play better in the state championships and made good on her promise, defeating the always-tough Linda Mitchell in the finals. Claudia Goszczynski finished in third place.



Marie Sweeney (center) is the 1995 State of Michigan Ladies' Champion. Linda Mitchell (left) took second place honors with Claudia Goszczynski in third.

In the Division II singles, crowd favorite Dave Gilliam won his first tournament, after nearly not arriving on time to play! He has been playing less than two years, but has beaten the likes of Bud Broka, Bob Perry and Bobby Voorhis in various singles events at Wetlands in the past year and figures to be heard from some more. He defeated Mike Tobin, who consistently finished in the money all year. Third place went to third-generation shuffler, Alonzo Cottrell, who edged out another up-and-comer, Chris Lemieux.

The action wound up on Sunday with the open doubles. Rick Boyer and Chris Passariello teamed up to capture the title, narrowly defeating defending champs, Frank Blade and Bjerne Sunde. The exciting finals had

(continued on Page 30)

Notebook *(continued from Page 19)*

some cases, their jobs, to run tournaments as fairly as they know how. Baseball rules are handled by umpires, basketball and football by officials, bowling and golf by officials and tournament directors. Our game of shuffleboard is no different. Most rules and calls must be made while the game is in progress, officials called, and protests ruled on. Most tournaments we've witnessed have rules posted and, for the most part, the officials are very well-qualified.

Regarding weights, the only recourse an opponent has to narrow the odds is to be able to use the other player's weights. Example: Kilroy has four sets of weights. After practicing, he's already decided to use one set on Board 3 and a different set on Board 8, mostly because of the differences in the speed of the boards. To ask your opponent to buy their own set of weights is often unrealistic. Lots of players are skimping on the house and car payments and ignoring the utility bills to bump heads with those who can afford their own set of weights. So to think they can invest \$150 for their own set of weights is unrealistic! Unlike golf and bowling, we don't submit our equipment for weight, balance, size, being worn on the bottom or treated with an illegal substance. We are also the only professional sport I know of that is allowed to bet on each other or ourselves, whether it's an individual bet or by the auction. I don't know what to do about it, but because of our format, we'll have a problem to lure a sponsor or get exposure on, say ESPN.

Having players check the boards for uniformity might have some merit. However, if you don't trust the directors, how can you trust three hand-picked players? Directors are players, too. The situation of a board taken out of play after being played on by a director did happen. However, we considered it an isolated incident and the directors, while not attempting to take any advantage, just used poor judgement.

As far as bracket-persons are concerned, we're probably spoiled. We think Rob Kern is the best there is. He's a non-player, doesn't drink, has never been accused of showing favoritism or rigging a bracket, and will answer all questions pertaining to the game, including an approximate time when you're due up next. However, he does have a down side. He likes women (affectionately known as the "kissing bandit") and he's a sucker on the pool table.

Lafayette Inn Sets Weekly Action

Pat and Nelson Renzo of the Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland, will be hosting shufflers starting the second Saturday in January and thereafter every Saturday. Each draw partner event starts at 1:30 p.m., \$10 entry fee, played on two boards in great condition. Good

food and fun. It's a family affair now.

John Sinclair, Bette McMullen, Jim and I will be running the tournaments. Please help us make this a success. If it is done, maybe our own Lafayette Inn will once again be "on the road." We have a new face lift and many new local players have adopted the game

If you have any ideas or suggestions, call me at 410-378-3402.

Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, Maryland

We're glad to hear that this once very popular shuffleboard site on the East Coast is serving shufflers again.

News from Dixie Debbie...

I hope you all had the merriest of Christmases and will have the happiest of New Years.

As I write this, the rain is falling gently outside. Yes, we do get rain in Southern California. The main body of this storm is in the Great Northwest's Evergreen County. We have many friends there and hope they are weathering this deluge in comfort.

Some from Evergreen County were recently in Southern California attending our Thanksgiving tournament. Larry Pearson and Bobby Thompson, who stayed and played even after the tournament had been over for days -- we love you guys! Warren G. and Skip McCaskell, it was great meeting you; come back soon. Freddy Thuman -- well, what can I say about Freddy, but we're having mudslides on you, Freddy, and there is always a place under our shuffleboard for you to nap.

I want to mention "Pack Mule" Steve Perry. He didn't know he was a pack mule until he tried to carry Joe Muniz through the doubles. Joe says he had a great ride until Steve made him stand on his own two feet; then his legs just wouldn't hold him. Steve, it's always good to see you and Tina -- and Joe is dieting.

Now, a little Dixie Belle saga....

It was late on Friday, Dec. 8. It had been a night full of competition in the Gallagher Room. Round robins, singles, doubles, the night had seen it all. Evie was behind the bar helping to orchestrate the evening with her masterful ways. There were some of our shuffleboard heavies playing for high two and three figure stakes. It was a normal Friday night at the Dixie Belle until....the infamous Little Susie Jones put her name on the challenge board and stated she'd walk the board against Paul Elliott and Karl Spickelmier. They were holding Board 4, the Equalizer, Dixie Belle's challenge board. Karl and Paul, as I'm sure most of you know, are pro status players and didn't want to take poor Susie's money, but rules are rules -- her name was on the board.

Now, Christine Brown enters this saga. Chris and Susie are up and coming women players. They both work hard to improve their game. Chris offered to partner with Susie. Terms were set with Paul and Karl and play commenced.

The men were confident of their win. The women determined to give them a tough game. The score became Susie and Chris, 12; Paul and Karl, 14. Karl had a deep 1, their winning point on the board. Chris hadn't been able to lag a 3 all night, but knew a 2 would give the men next hammer. Karl's weight was dead in the path of her most comfortable lag. She talked the situation over with her partner, then called her shot to the room: "Chip off Karl's 1 and slide into a 3." The room was tense and quiet. Chris and Sue had played well against Karl and Paul and could walk away feeling good about their game. But to win? Chris was steady. Picking up her hammer weight, she placed it confidently on the board and, as she had said, chipped it off Karl's deep 1 and slid into the winning 3. The house went wild. News spread quickly to me in the front bar. I am relating it to the community at large. Chris and Susie believe that the "simple lack of respect" the less experienced but serious player receives, at least in their cases, has been decreased substantially. When Chris and Susie put their names on the challenge board, they are now recognized as forces to be reckoned with.

I want to add that the men were pretty good sports about their loss and we applaud their sportsmanship. Mr. Spickelmier and Mr. Elliot, you're both the "cat's pajamas."

Again, I raise my cup to the men and women shufflers all over. You are the greatest. Next time you're in The Dixie Belle, come to the front bar and introduce yourself. I'd love to meet you!

With Wes and Eileen Eades, this is....

Dixie Debbie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

It's 3 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, as we set your copy, Debbie, and your graphic description of the match between Karl and Paul, Chris and Susie, made our weary eyes pop open. Thanks for sharing this "moment in shuffleboard history." And please thank all the shufflers at your Thanksgiving Tournament who sent us such a wonderful Christmas gift. As you know, we've been pretty "home-bound" since the latter part of June and we're going to use your gift to hire a "Mom-sitter" and go out for dinner. We'll drink a toast to all of you!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hall of Fame (continued from Page 5)

transcribe it and it will become part of the permanent record of information about these players.

Another idea I have regarding obtaining this essential information is to contact the players that are nominated. It would, however, be a lot easier on the player to fill in gaps and verify information already supplied than to provide their entire life history themselves. Of course, the best source for this history is the person nominated, but I feel it is much better to establish some database of information before going to them....less work for them anyway!

Another useful idea is to notify the readers of *The Board Talk* that a person has been nominated for induction, and request any information they know be sent to the Hall of Fame. It is my hope that a combination of these methods, and others as thought of, will help provide the information we so desperately need.

Again, I hope *The Board Talk* readers will let me, or another member of the NSHF Board, know how they would like the nominations handled.

I speak on behalf of the entire board when I say thank you very much to everyone for their financial support and their efforts to continue to make the dream of The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame a reality.

Louise C. Freer, Secretary
189 Barry Ave., Lansdale PA 19446
Phone: 215-661-0108

(Editor's Note: PLEASE, readers, take the time to write or call Louise before the Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas so they can have a productive meeting. One idea we have: When you receive a nomination with the required 20 signatures, send the people who have submitted the nomination a questionnaire regarding the nominee's accomplishments and contributions to the sport -- and make filling out that questionnaire a requirement. We're hoping our new column, "Looking Back," will provide you with some information, but there's nothing more helpful and effective than personal testimonies from the people who nominate a particular individual. Plus the fact that we only have information from the past 12 years and a lot of things were happening before then. Somehow, we're not surprised that Darrol Nelson is the first and only shuffler to respond to your invitation for input. That commitment and caring should put him a step closer to induction.)

**Support the National
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame
with your input!**

Michigan Champs *(continued from Page 27)*

plenty of no-holds-barred action between Blade and Boyer on their end, while their slightly more conservative partners actually shot at, not around, the weights. Third place went to J.R. Lopez and John McDermott.



Tops in the Division II singles were (right to left): winner Dave Gilliam, second-place finisher Mike Tobin, third-place winner Alonzo Cottrell, and Chris Lemieux, fourth.



Rick Boyer (left) and Chris Passariello teamed up to take the 1995 Doubles Championship.



They beat defending champions Bjerne Sunde and Frank Blade in an exciting finals.

Participants and guests appreciated the great breakfasts provided by host Mike Papa and the friendly service of his staff.

Check the enclosed flyer for upcoming events at the Wetlands Bar & Grill.

First Ladies' Weekend a Success!

More than 20 women gathered at Wetlands Bar & Grill, Royal Oak, Michigan, in October for the 1st Annual Ladies' Weekend packed with three events -- draw partners, singles and bring partner doubles. For several of the ladies, it was their first tournament, but

obviously not their last, as they returned to Wetlands for the State of Michigan Championships. "Special thanks to Betty Parrish for bringing enthusiastic first-timers Carrie Cottrell, Kelly Gerald, Kendra Penland, Sue Reynolds and Lena Vaughan," said John McDermott.

Always a dedicated promoter and ambassador for shuffleboard, Betty Parrish receives special recognition for making this first a big success!



The draw partners event was won by Bonnie Morgan and Claudia Goszczynski, with Jamie Kay and Marie Sweeney in second, and Patty Lietke and Penny Morgan in third. Sandy Blade won a hard-fought battle in the singles, defeating Linda Mitchell in the finals. Third place went to Penny Cottrell. In the bring partner event, the mother-daughter team of Bonnie and Penny Morgan finished first, with Patty MacDonald and Linda Mitchell in second, and Sandy Blade and Kris Chandler in third.

Host Mike Papa thanks all the ladies who participated. See the enclosed flyer for the dates of the 2nd Annual Ladies' Weekend -- and remember, participation isn't limited to Michigan!

ANNOUNCING RENO '96

Mark your calendars now for the 7th Annual North American Championships, which will return to the Sands Regency Hotel Casino in Reno, Nevada, on Oct. 28-Nov. 3. This tournament will include plenty of action for players of all skill levels. Everyone who attends is eligible for five events, 18 boards, thousands of dollars in added money, all in some of the most "player friendly" surroundings you will find anywhere.

Pro players will be eligible for the team event for the first time. The chance to play with one of the top players in the world for a couple of days has already got people talking about this tournament. "We expect this to be the biggest tournament we have ever put on, so don't wait until the last minute to make plans, or you might get shut out," said John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., sponsors of this big event.

**Happy New Year
from your Board Talk Editors!**

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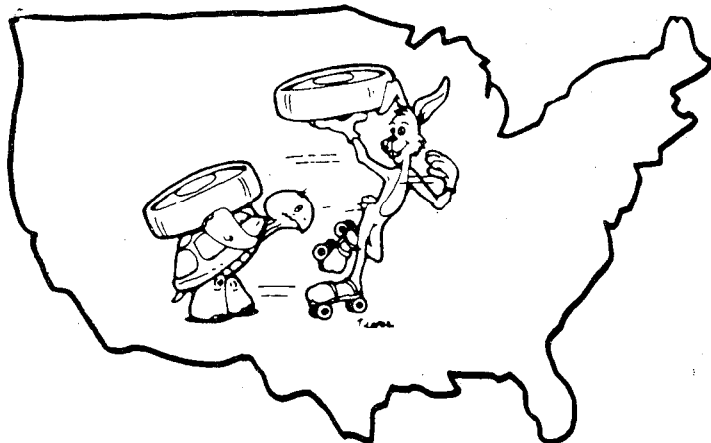
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